

REMARKS

I. Status of the Claims

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-15 and 17 were pending prior to this request for reconsideration. The Examiner has indicated that claims 3-4 and 7-15 contain allowable subject matter. Claims 1, 5 and 17 stand rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting.

No claims have been amended in this request for reconsideration. As a result, no new matter has been added. A terminal disclaimer disclaiming the life of the pending application to the term of U.S. Patent 6,821,143 has been submitted concurrently with this response.

II. Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in the December 12, 2006, Final Office Action that at least claims 3-4 and 7-15 contain allowable subject matter.

III. Response to Double Patenting Rejection:

Claims 1, 5 and 17 stand rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1,8 and 10-11 of U.S. Patent 6,821,143.

Applicants file concurrently with this response a terminal disclaimer disclaiming the term of the present application to U.S. Patent 6,821,143 to overcome the non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection, as recommended in the previous Office Action.

In view of the above, Applicants believe that claims 1, 5 and 17, as well as claims 3-4 and 7-15 previously indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter, are now in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

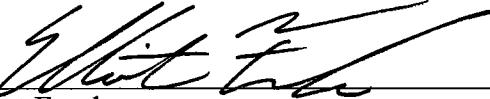
AUTHORIZATIONS:

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for timely consideration of this Terminal Disclaimer under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 -§1.20 or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1948-4841.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 29, 2006

By: _____


Elliot Frank
Registration No. 56,641
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

Correspondence Address:

MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, NY 10281-2101